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The various Governments and Municipal Corporations, and all Public Bodies and Companies, Bankers, Merchants, Consuls, Professional men and other Residents, have supplied the necessary matter, upon forms specially sent for that purpose so as to ensure accuracy. The Naval and Military portions have been taken from the latest published official lists and revised at Headquarters; in fact, no pains have been spared to make "THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" a handy and perfectly reliable book of reference for all classes.

In addition to the information enumerated above "THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" for 1894 will contain a carefully revised INDEX TO THE ORDINANCES OF HONGKONG;

A SPECIAL LIST OF FOREIGNERS employed in Steamers making short voyages from Hongkong;

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A Mass of interesting information on various subjects, culled from the most trustworthy sources.

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There is not space in the compass of an Ordinary Advertisement to detail all the information introduced into the work, but it may be fairly asserted that no such Directory has ever been published, either in Hongkong or any other part of the East, at such a low price.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" offers Social Advantages as an Advertising Medium. It has an extensive circulation in all Ports between Singapore and Newchwang, in the Australian Colonies, the United States, and the United Kingdom, and the scale of charges has been fixed at an exceptionally low rate. Terms can be learned on application.

Suggestions for the improvement of this work are respectfully solicited.

Orders for COPIES, and for ADVERTISEMENTS may be sent to the Agents at the various Ports, or to the Office of

"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" PRESS, HILL, HONGKONG, Hongkong, 4th January, 1894.

## Intimations.

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CONFECTIONERY, &amp;c.

WE have just received our New Stock of CONFECTIONERY and are offering the same at prices suitable for the present bad times:—

CHOCOLATE CREMES.  
PATES D'APRICOT.  
CHOCOLATE ALMONDS.  
FANCY BOXES OF SWEETS of various kinds from 2 Dollars to 25 Cents.  
SUGARED ALMONDS.  
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MIXED SWEETS.  
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In SILVER, ELECTRO, SNAKE SKIN, RUSSIAN LEATHER, &c.  
CIGAR & CIGARETTE HOLDERS, PIPES.  
Hongkong, 13th November, 1893. [36]

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SCOTCH, ASSORTED TOFFEES,  
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and a large selection  
of  
PURE CONFECTIONERY  
from the leading Manufacturers.

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CHOCOLATE CREMES.

PINE, APRICOT, CHERRY, LIME, GUAVA,  
and other  
FRUIT JELLIES  
in great variety.

TOM SMITH'S  
CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

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A Large Assortment of  
ENGLISH AND JAPANESE CHRISTMAS  
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of handsome and artistic designs, suitable to all  
tastes and at moderate prices.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED,  
The Hongkong Dispensary,  
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.  
Hongkong, 3rd November, 1893. [5]

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The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1894.

## TELEGRAMS.

MATABELELAND.  
LONDON, 3rd January, 1894.  
The natives declare that the whole of Captain Wilson's party were killed with the exception of seven, who escaped in the direction of Matley Hill.

RIOTING IN SICILY.  
Severe rioting, amounting almost to a revolution, continues throughout Sicily. The garrison has been reinforced to the extent of forty thousand men, by calling out the reserve force.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

H.M.S. *Proserpine* leaves on Tuesday next for the Straits, relieving the *Peguy*, which will return here.

MR. COLIN FORD, newly appointed British Consul at Amoy, arrived in that port with Mrs. Ford by the *Tatung* on Tuesday, from Shanghai.

THE troopship *Himalaya* is expected to arrive in Hongkong about the end of this month, leaving for home with time-expired men about February 12th.

THE Agents (Messrs. Dodwell, Carrill & Co.) inform us that the Northern Pacific Steamship Co.'s steamer *Victoria*, from Tacoma, left Moji at noon to-day for this port.

By the courtesy of Lt. Col. Robinson and Officers of the Shropshire Light Infantry, the Band of the Regiment will play at the Ladies' Recreation Club on Monday afternoon at 4.15 o'clock.

THE first dividend of the Raub Gold Mining Company was paid in Singapore on the 25th ult., at the rate of sixpence per share. Latest reports from the mines are of a most satisfactory and promising character.

THE *Madras Mail* learns from a reliable source that the special concessions to the Europeans in the Indian Civil Service will probably result in more equitable allowances, but the cancellation of the period of service for pension is opposed by the Government of India.

WHEN we read that 1,200 ounces of gold were "won" from the Coolidge mines in Western Australia as the result of ten hours working, a vision of "Panjans" in the near future showing equally brilliant returns is a very pleasant dream. Only a dream! We shall see.

SOCIETY news a century ago was quite a different article to what it is to-day. In 1790 a London Journal announced the marriage of Sir Thomas Leigh to Miss Wade, and added: "She is the daughter of Mr. Wade, the medical man, who cured Sir Thomas of a morification in his toe."

In these days of quick passages and attempts at record breaking across the Atlantic, it may be interesting to those who keep track of the days' runnings of the different steamers, to note that the length of a day going westward is about 24 hours and going eastward is about 23 hours.

THE *matinee* performance of D'Arco's Marionettes to-morrow afternoon at 4 p.m. will be under the patronage of Mr. General Digby Barker. On looking in at Kelly & Walsh's this afternoon we were pleased to note that over fifty seats had already been booked, so that a full house may be expected. The show on its merits thoroughly deserves the patronage of the public.

Says the New York *Maritime Register*:—"If shipmasters and mates of our merchant vessels must be citizens, and that they should be as a matter of public policy is most evident, then engineers, who certainly are also officers, and most important ones, should also be citizens. A bill creating engineers 'vessel officers' has been presented in Congress and should soon become a law."

As at present contemplated, Vice-Admiral Fremantle is to leave for the south on Feb. 13th, in the *Imperieuse*, with the *Alacrity* in attendance. From Singapore he will go in the latter vessel to Malacca, Penang, and probably also Perak and Selangor. After visiting Batavia in the *Imperieuse*, he will return to Hongkong before the end of March.

THE Indo-China Co.'s steamship *Tatung*, which arrived here to-day from Shanghai via ports fell in with the *Kowling* with tall shaft broken, on the 31st ult., when ten miles south of Sheep Island. Captain Hogg took the cripple in tow and headed back to port, but was met and relieved just north-west of Bonham by the same Company's steamer *El Dorado*, sent out to pick her up in response to a message.

THE *Kobe Chronicle* writes under date the 13th ult.:—"The British ship *P. Y. Robbins*, 1708 tons, bound for New York via the Cape, after waiting a fortnight for a favourable wind, set sail yesterday, but it is said took no pilot. Information arrived in the afternoon that she had grounded on a sand shoal about one and a half miles from the Kotochi light-house and some five miles from Hakodate. The Captain, his wife and child, with some 12 sailors, returned in one of the ship's boats immediately to report the catastrophe to the agents and seek assistance. The *Saitoku-maru* and five cargo boats, together with Mr. Wilson and two Customs-house officers, started at once as possible for the scene of the accident, in a hope of making a landing before the wind, and so far as is possible. This is the only way in which the cargo can be saved. Besides, if the ship is to be used for currency purposes, besides, if the billon is turned into coin, there will be less profit in shipping it abroad."

THE hardness which aluminum is said to lack can, according to a new process noted in the *N. Y. Electrical World*, be imparted to it by the addition of chromium. Of course, certain precautions have to be taken to alloy the two metals, owing to the difference in their fusibility. If electrolysis is employed for this purpose, one or another of the known methods can be used, and the aluminum, salts of aluminum, etc., treated direct with a determined quantity of granulated chromium, or chromium in any other suitable condition, or with its salts or oxides.

It was reported in Yokohama the other day that the British *Chapel d'Assises* and the wife of the French Minister had been subjected to violence in different parts of Tokyo by some hangers-on of the "Great Japan" party. Everything would appear to indicate that Japan is at present dominated over by a powerful and purely anti-foreign contingent, who will apparently not get contented until the country is seriously implicated with some foreign Power, when an invasion and a thundering good hammering will keep the restless Japs quiet for the next ten years. A salutary lesson is badly needed in Japan just now, unless foreigners are prepared to be entirely driven from the country.

It was with feelings of deep regret that the members of the R. E. stationed here learnt by the last mail of the recent death, in the Greenock Infirmary, of Sergeant-Major "Pat" O'Leary, a promising young non-Commissioned officer of the Royal Engineers. While stationed here O'Leary was conspicuous amongst his comrades owing to his exceptional skill in submarine mining and diving. On one occasion, shortly before his recall to the "land country," he established a record in diving, according to recovering an exploded mine in the Ly-on-annon Pans at a depth of 120 feet. Having passed all his exams by this time he was 35 years of age, poor "Pat" would doubtless have been rapidly promoted, but he has now, as above stated, attained his "last" and that, too, at the early age of 35.

THE following is the oath said to have been sworn to by all present at a recent meeting of the Great Japan Society:—"We swear to carry out the strict enforcement of the present treaties, and to effect redress in the *Chishima* case, and we hereby agree to surmount all difficulties, and it necessary sacrifice our lives to that end. We further swear to effect the contraction of new treaties on fair and equal terms."

LORD BRASSEY has repudiated the suggestion that his views on the optimum question as in any way affected by his position as a Director of the British North Borneo Company. He assures the *Columbia* *Englishman* that his pecuniary interest in the British North Borneo Company is of the slightest, and that he has contemplated the resignation of his position as Director owing to the fact that he is not able to give due attention to the affairs of the Company.

A HOME paper gives some interesting statistics as to the pecuniary returns of few inventions. The stylographic pen for a while brought in £40,000 a year; the india-rubber pen to pencils £20,000; metal plates for protecting the soles and heels of boots brought in £30,000 in all; the roller skate £200,000. A clergyman realized £400 a week by the invention of a toy; another, the return ball, brought in an income of £10,000; the "Dancing Jim Crow" £15,000. The lawyer of a copper cap for children's boots was able to turn his heels £40,000, while Singer, of sewing-machine fame, left at his death nearly £3,000,000.

THE British Iron Trade Association, says *Indian Engineering*, has addressed an important circular to the Chambers of Commerce throughout the country with reference to the prohibition of the importation of machinery into China, ostensibly on the ground that it tends to interfere with the employment of the common people in that Empire. The prohibition is understood to apply equally to every description of foreign machinery for the purposes of industry, whether imported by foreigners or by Chinese subjects. No market open to English manufacturers appeared to offer greater promise than that of China, which is regarded as being likely to enter upon a career of large and rapid industrial development. The matter is a question for the Foreign Office of the Government to take up, at the request of Chambers of Commerce.

THE New Year festivities have a good deal to answer for in the way of disturbing the usual decorum of Her Majesty's loyal subjects. First of all, the "Water Police" signboard at Talmah-street was painted out, and a more seasonable beverage by the name of "whisky" was painted in. Then a leading light of the legal world went to sleep in the Supreme Court library, and was locked in by undisciplined attendants; he might have had a stay overnight, or else work in the place, but for the accidental return of some one in search of a forgotten umbrella. In another part of the colony, His Excellency the Admiral, while on a round of inspection at the Naval Yard, wanted to mount a stage where there was no ladder, and directed a subordinate aloft to give him a hand; but instead of the Admiral springing up, it was the other fellow who came down, and the pair did a lovely waltz among the tv-barns and wet paint. Christmas comes but once a year, but when it's gone one does feel queer.

THE three Wints now in operation in the United States, says the *S. F. Bulletin* of November 15th, were hit loose on gold coinage last month, and the result is the largest output in years. The total amount of gold coined in October is \$9,504,760, including \$1,360,000 in "double eagles," \$5,682,200 in "eagles," and \$2,462,560 in "half-eagles." The large amount of eagles and half-eagles is particularly noteworthy. There is good reason for this large gold coinage. The amount of gold coin in Government vaults has been reduced to \$66,616,920, the smallest total in many years. There is a large supply of gold bullion on hand. On the 1st there were \$96,673,300 in gold bars in the vaults. Orders have been given to the Mint officers to keep up the activity in this coinage. It is predicted that \$20,000,000 of this bullion will be coined in November and December. It will be well to remember that the amount of gold coin as rapidly as possible. This is the only way in which the bullion can be used for currency purposes. Besides, if the bullion is turned into coin, there will be less profit in shipping it abroad.

THE Hakodate correspondent of the *Kobe Chronicle* writes under date the 13th ult.:—"The British ship *P. Y. Robbins*, 1708 tons, bound for New York via the Cape, after waiting a fortnight for a favourable wind, set sail yesterday, but it is said took no pilot. Information arrived in the afternoon that she had grounded on a sand shoal about one and a half miles from the Kotochi light-house and some five miles from Hakodate. The Captain, his wife and child, with some 12 sailors, returned in one of the ship's boats immediately to report the catastrophe to the agents and seek assistance. The *Saitoku-maru* and five cargo boats, together with Mr. Wilson and two Customs-house officers, started at once as possible for the scene of the accident, in a hope of making a landing before the wind, and so far as is possible. This is the only way in which the cargo can be saved. Besides, if the ship is to be used for currency purposes, besides, if the billon is turned into coin, there will be less profit in shipping it abroad."

As the result of recent inquiries the Consul-General in China at Singapore has the following information why Chinese who settle in the Straits Settlements and become prosperous don't return to their native land: "They said that they feared the so-called 'investigations' of their local mandarins; the oppression of the *yamen* underlings; and the extortions of their clansmen and neighbours. Instances of this can be given without number. They have complained that those who happened to return home have been maliciously accused as pirates and robbers; as spies for savages; as purchasers of opium and arms and ammunition, in order to supply the pirates; and as buyers and kidnappers of coolie slaves for the purpose of supplying foreign ruffians. Some of them have had their baggage and belongings—the savings of years—forcibly taken away from them and partitioned amongst local 'commorants'; some have had their houses pulled down and were forbidden to build on the land they had bought; and some, moreover, have been forced to pay money on forged documents, in which their ancestors were supposed to have 'borrowed' from the 'royalties' ancestors a century or so ago. Alone and unprotected, considered to be strangers and aliens amongst their own kith and kin, to whom could they apply for help in a land surrounded as they were on all sides by rapacious 'hawks' of high and low degree? Hence, having taken a lesson from experience, none of the wealthy Chinese in foreign countries care to return to the land of their ancestors. Those who do go to China to trade or travel go as British or Dutch subjects, under the protection of a foreign Government."

It is reported in Japan that the Russian Government has accepted Japanese tenders for a large supply of coal.

THE *London Gazette* of Nov. 28th announces that Capt. T. E. Compton, of the Northamptonshire Regiment, has been promoted to be Major, and E. G. Bennett promoted Lieut.-Colonel on half-pay; and that Lieut. R. F. Bollean resigns his commission.

AN American shipping contemporary modestly holds for a as follows:—"Talk of record breakers! They will have to trail in behind the *Columbia*. The fastest of cruisers, she can overtake the fastest of ocean greyhounds a feat heretofore impossible for war vessels. But then if the desire to shoot and talk about this wonderful boat is gratified, our foreign friends will say, all this is very fine and Yankee-like—but. This inevitable 'but' can, however, find no place this time. The *Columbia* is the latest product of a Yankee shipyard in the shape of a commerce destroyer and all that need be said is—Has she her equal?"

## MR. TAUFER AND HIS TENANT.

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

The words of the comic song in which frequent reference is made to "McGlavin's Row of Flats" were brought to mind by proceedings in the Police Court this morning apparently arising out of some family feud in which Mr. George Tauffer, an American who was at one time (in the "good old days") superintendent of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's fire engines, appeared before the rails of the dock as defendant in a suit brought against him by one Lucas Castro, a Portuguese. The case naturally caused considerable interest in Portuguese circles with the result that the Court was crowded with Lusitanians of both sexes, and of all ages and sizes, from the gray haired splinter down to shimmering school-girls and school-boys in their "teens." Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, barrister-at-law, appeared on behalf of the aggrieved party, while Mr. C. D. Wilkinson watched the proceedings on behalf of the complainant, who was charged with assaulting the complainant with a walking-stick on the 4th instant.

The following evidence was led:—Lucas Castro said he was 22 years of age, lived in Peel Street and was unemployed. On the 4th instant between 10 and 11 a.m., he was at No. 15, Mosque Junction, visiting, and while there saw the defendant strike witness' brother with his hand. Witness shouted out asking why he struck his brother and was told by the defendant that it was because the youngster threw stones at him. Witness remonstrated and was then himself struck by the defendant with a thick walking-stick. The blow knocked witness down and he lay on the ground senseless for fully half a minute. Subsequently, having armed himself with a broom, witness sallied forth, attacked Tauffer and got the walking-stick (now in Court) away from him. He took out a summons against Tauffer on the 4th instant.

Cross-examined—He had lived in one of Tauffer's houses up to the 27th ultimo, when he left owing to having received notice to quit. He was not one of the youths who created a disturbance in the defendant's house four months ago. He had heard that other Portuguese boys threw stones at Tauffer and even called him bad names, but not often. When witness got the sick away from the defendant the latter's adopted daughter seized her father by the arm and dragged him into the house.

Valeria Larcena stated that she was a widow, resident in Overbeck's Court, and was a sister of the last witness. She was leaning out of the window about 10 a.m. on the 4th, as also was her brother Leo, when Tauffer came along and looking up at her made an insulting remark. Her brother was annoyed and shouted to Tauffer—"Shut up, you old rascal!" Then the defendant told Leo, her brother, to come down into the street, which he did, and was struck on the head and rendered senseless. Defendant also struck another of her brothers. There could be no doubt about defendant intending an insult. He was, in fact, in the habit of acting in a similar manner towards her.

Cross-examined—Witness and her brothers always tried to avoid Tauffer. They never called him bad names.

Leo Castro, a school boy about 16 years of age, said he had not been more than two minutes at the window before Tauffer came in sight. When near the house Tauffer insulted witness' sister. Then witness called the defendant an "old rascal" which was followed by an invitation from him to go down to the street. He went down and was assaulted by Tauffer, who also struck his brother with the stick (produced in Court). After that witness' sister told him to fetch a constable, which he did.

Cross-examined—Neither witness nor his brother had sticks. He saw his brother take Tauffer's stick away from him, after fencing with a broom.

At this point the case was adjourned until 10.30 to-morrow morning.

## FAREWELL TO HONGKONG.

Hongkong, adieu! thou social cesspool of the far-off East  
How long shall thy foul-smelling slums  
Where breath of Heaven never comes,  
Confound their odours with the vice which is thy daily feast.

The weary traveller upon thy whisky-sodden shore  
Is simply bound to take a drink,  
If but to kill the frightful sick  
Which ever doth infect thy very being to the core.

The un-soaped Chinaman, who, with their dirty bowling rags,  
Monopolize thy narrow streets  
And e'en thy office steps, as seats  
On which they squat the livelong day—the dirty scalliwags—

Are well in keeping with all else which renders thee unlovely:  
The shabby rickshaws out on hire,  
Thy reeking, pestilential Prays,  
Where flourish the headquarters of a Chinese pirate clique.

Thou art a sanctuary safe for China's refugees;  
Her outlaw'd murderers and thieves  
Crowd aside by side beneath thy eaves,  
And roam about deriving other wickedness at ease.

The brokers who upon thy curbs their businesses transact  
Which more than often are but *ad*,  
Do "pleatily please" up the hill,  
And then get broken up themselves when bills cannot be back'd.

Farewell, Hongkong! although, by Nature with great beauty blest,  
Thy poorer rival farther North  
Should show the need to make her North  
Hongkong a British colony, and not an outlaw's nest.

## THE ENGINEERS' DANCE.

The Committee of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong conclusively proved last night that hard-headed common sense and capable management can overcome social difficulties that in Hongkong have always been regarded as insurmountable. At the dance given in the City Hall by the members of the Institute last night the various grades of Hongkong society coalesced without any trouble or difficulty, for the first time within living memory. It was quite a revelation to old stagers to see the high-toned spouses and daughters of second-class clerks, petty professional men and other "bummers" of the Hongkong Club who ornament the self-constituted upper circles of the colony, without elevating their aristocratic noses, slightly condescending to acknowledge the existence of and dance to the same set with, the wires, sisters and daughters of engineers and shipbuilders, men to whose labours this colony owes so much. Never in the social history of Hongkong has a dance on such a large scale been so completely free from the slightest tinge of 'side' or snobbery; never has such a function passed off with more *clat* and general enjoyment, and in such gratifying results the stewards are entitled to more than ordinary recognition for their practical management of an exceedingly onerous and somewhat delicate duty.

There must have been close upon five hundred people present, and as this is a wide beyond the carrying capacity (to use a nautical metaphor) of St. George's Hall, the Committee will probably find it advisable on another occasion to utilise St. Andrew's Hall also for the Terpsichorean revels of their guests. The latter free saloon was used last night as a refreshment room, and of course in that capacity was extensively patronised; but in all set dances, and in such specialties as the Highland Schottische and Barn Dance, quite a large number of dancers had to "stand down" for lack of room. However, taken altogether, the affair was a most enjoyable one, and the youth and beauty of Hongkong have seldom been so strikingly and favorably represented. There would almost seem to be quite an epidemic of female loveliness all over the colony just at present.

The popular President of the Institute, Mr. D. Gilles, M.I.N.A., was very much in evidence, and the Hon. J. J. Keswick looked as if he would gladly oblige with "Gillie Callum" or "Hualachan" at the slightest provocation. Mr. R. Mitchell, the hon. secretary, was most attentive in every direction, and no prize could be too much for the stewards; and, unlike the ordinary sort of stewards at Hongkong dances, these gentlemen understood their obligations and performed them.

Bandmaster Murphy and the Shropshire Light Infantry musicians played in splendid form, although it must be admitted they got a bit mixed up in the *Strathpey* and *Reel*, which *chante-morose* they had to tackle on very short notice, the man with the pipes not turning up as expected. A more thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment has rarely been seen in Hongkong.

## LINES BY THE CABIN BOY.

(AIR, THE SHIPMAN'S SONG.)

I.  
Will you come aboard my ship, Sir,  
And have a little trip, Sir,  
She's as fast and trim and smart a craft as  
ever sailed the sea;  
You can safely take my lip, Sir,  
That there's none that can eclipse her,  
So listen while I sing you all about her, if you please.

II.  
The Commander's name's Seston,  
And he's never yet been beaten;  
He's faced the stiffest weather, and he's  
always pulled her through;  
He's a regular 'first rater,'  
And a splendid navigator,  
And he's justly earned the deep respect of  
officers and crew.

III.  
The Chief's as smart an officer  
As ever sloped his coffee, Sir,  
He'll take an observation or a peg with equal  
zeal;  
He's the Skipper's right-hand man, Sir,  
And if anybody can, Sir,  
He can navigate the vessel North or East or  
South or West.

IV.  
Next to Andrews, comes the Second,  
And a right good chap he's reckoned,  
His quality was tested last autumn equinox;  
And if there's a dilemma,  
With Bruce and his Ephraims,  
You'd always be sure of striking something, if  
it's only rocks.

V.  
Then there's Dobbin, he's the "thirdier,"  
And Balfie, next man "fourder,"  
Just as game a pair as any you will find in  
all the fleet;  
And the very last survivor,  
Is Munnally, he's the "fiver,"  
And they're all as good a lot of chaps as ever  
you could meet.

VI.  
Then the Surgeon, Fraser Standage,  
Good alike at song or bandage,  
Is another good old chaps of a quite  
uncommon sort;  
If anything you're ailing,  
Will guarantee to kill or cure you are you get  
to port.

VII.  
Then a mon' o' gold old stock, Sir,  
Is Alexander Brock, Sir,  
He's a brawly son o' Scotia, and the *Thames'*  
Chief Engineer;  
Night after day he's a teller  
Of gaffs and bolts,  
And woe 't' Sandy on the safety valve there's  
nowt at all to fear.

VIII.  
The Porter is John Klog, Sir,  
If he takes you 'neath his wing, Sir,  
You'll never want to leave the ship; he  
forgets as well.  
The invalid's best friend, Sir,  
And the joint for you and me, Sir,  
Are quills looked after by this Commissioner  
swell.

IX.  
And our last particular "star," Sir,  
Is the grumman at the bar, Sir,  
If you don't know Mr. Lancelotti, you don't  
know where you are;  
For a morning galvanizer  
Or a cocktail on the sly, Sir,  
There's no bartender can touch him in his  
practice at the bar.

X.  
So come aboard my ship, Sir,  
And have a little trip, Sir,  
Come along with us round China, or to  
beautiful Bombay;  
You can safely take my lip, Sir,  
That there's none that can eclipse her,  
And you never will regret it to you very latest  
day.

RICHARD TURPIN, F.R.S.  
(Cabin Boy)  
S.S. *Thames*,  
New Year's Day, 1894.



## D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

That in these dull and dismal latter days considerable relief may be obtained from an evening spent in the pretty and cosy Bijou Theatre erected by the enterprising D'Arc Marionettes management at West Point, is evidenced by the crowds that repair thither nightly, and to the cheering throngs of the highly ingenious, thoroughly amusing, and wholly unimpeachable entertainment was in no wise an exception. From start to finish the verve of the deftly contrived performances of the marionettes, who walk gracefully on and off the stage, and who move about in a marvellously natural manner, produced constant applause and unlimited merriment. The "Komical Kites," court minstrels, and the plantation dances of "Old-man" and "Youngman" bringing forth positive terms of applause and ecstasies of delight. That there should be some slight hitch in a show of this kind is not a matter for surprise when the handling of such delicate and multitudinous mechanism, such as is inseparable from a unique performance of this kind, is taken into consideration, and the great volumes for the skill and care of the graceful manipulators behind the scenes that all defects, if such they may be termed, are in the illusion which in itself would not be detected were the illusion less complete, and these, too, are readily forgotten in the marvellous perfection to which the little actors have been brought.

D'Arc's Marionettes are unquestionably far superior to any of their Italian rivals, in that they actually walk on and off the stage without straightening their legs. This important improvement, the most noticeable and noticeable in the set where "Robert" goes off of the stage, or rather vice versa, and in the elaborate harlequinade and multiple ballet and light rope dancing, which, brought on at the right moment, effectually prevent any approach to tedium and stamp the performance as at once diversified and attractive. Of the pranks and by-play of the clown it is well impossible to speak too highly, and it would be incredible to all but eye-witnesses, a remark which may be fairly applied to the grand transformation scene—the "Fairy's" Dell and Home of the Swan—where the over-green pantomime of the Blue Bird.

As an entertainment suited to all sections of the cosmopolitan communities of the Far East, of all ages and sexes, it may be said to be a perfect D'Arc Marionettes, which any show of this kind has yet witnessed the "Gorgeous East." The whole performance is as charming as it is distinctly multi-pleasing and interesting, while the staging and scenery are absolutely faultless. To all a couple of columns with elaborate details of the varied performance would be a backward-looking commitment to the painstaking management which we are not given to extending to high-class entertainers of the D'Arc order. For we have been so satisfied with the public that a visit to the Bijou Theatre will repay the trouble of getting there, and that the evening can be as satisfying as the day, and that the evening can be as satisfying as the day.

And now a "word in season" to those whom it may concern. A theatre, whether it be at West Point or in the heart of the city, is not a place where low-class "tugs" of the coster, "shell-back," and "shovel-engineer" types are welcome, and they should not be admitted there unless fairly sober. On more than one occasion during the current week spectators in the front seats have been subjected to considerable annoyance by the "ken" "Arries" in the back seats, who should have been removed with a firm hand by the police. That they were allowed to carry on their coarse pranks unmolested may probably be accounted for by the fact that the policeman was away "round the corner," as per usual, or possibly near enough to the bar to get a saucy sniff of other people's beer. But be that as it may, the remedy lies with the male portion of the audience, who should promptly check off-ensive rowdiness by applying the "closure," which being in error in the mother-tongue of B.I. "ingate gutter-birds means" "chuckling out." Verily, sap.

Several changes in the programme are now promised and should draw like one of Dr. Cantlie's very own porcine planters.

## LIFE INSURANCE.

From correspondence recently published in the *Economist* it appears that the "marine" system of life insurance does not always give satisfaction; the figures quoted by the companies as payable to the client are expressly stated to be "not guaranteed," but when the result falls short of anticipations the cordial insurer is disappointed in the same. We cannot see that he has any ground for complaint, having voluntarily parted with his money under plain stated conditions. However, for the benefit of persons who have not enough sense to take care of themselves, we reproduce the letter, without gratuitously advertising names—

## THE PREMISES AND PERFORMANCES OF AMERICAN LIFE OFFICES.

To the Editor of the "Economist."

SIR,—Some twenty years ago a friend of mine took out a policy with a Life Assurance company of the United States.

The policy matured this year, and I hand you herewith (1) the official original estimate, and (2) a letter from the head office in New York showing the actual result. They compare as follows:

Estimate.	Actual.
Cash value at maturity...	3,395 0 0
The assured may then draw out, controlling policy at same premium...	1,738 6 0
Or have a paid-up policy for...	4,520 0 0
Or an annuity during his and the £3,035 at death of...	143 18 0

At the end of eight months it became over six feet long and nearly three inches thick. About this time my second brother was born. He was a very large and handsome baby, and was admitted by the entire community. He suddenly, however, began to grow thin and weak. We were much perturbed over this and greatly alarmed at his condition. My father consulted a clairvoyant, who said that the little brother was in the toils of a vampire, who was sucking his life blood, and advised my father to sit up every night to drive the monster away.

My father accordingly sat up for the next three nights in my mother's bedroom. The first two nights nothing unusual happened. On the third night, about 1 o'clock in the morning, my father, who was sitting in a large easy chair, heard a strange noise in the room. He never moved a muscle, thinking it might be a ghost, but only opened one eye. Would you believe it! He saw that big, fat snake—my grandfather—crawl out of his box, go across the room and gently glide into my mother's bed. The next moment he had fastened his jaws upon her breast.

As he did so my little brother began to cry from hunger and to move towards my mother to be nursed. As he did so the snake curled his

## LATE TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, December 13th.  
All Chambers of the different European States are taking measures against bomb outrages.

General Protheroe, commanding at Hyderabad, has been appointed aide-de-camp to the Queen.

A serious riot has taken place among Artillery recruits at Dover, who smelted the furniture in barracks and looted public houses. The people of the town remained indoors; the rioters were eventually dispersed by the military and police and many were arrested.

December 16th.  
The Queen has conferred the order of the Crown of India on Prince Marie of Roumania, Princess Melita of Sax-Coburg, and Princess Aribert of Anhalt.

December 17th.  
The cargo of the ship *Yam*, which was stranded on the coast of Massachusetts has been mostly saved.

December 18th.  
The indemnity which France has agreed to pay to Italy as compensation to sufferers by the Algerian riots is due to Italy having consented to pay an indemnity to the French king in rioting at Rome, Genoa and Naples. Neither Government has yet paid, as the sanction of the Chambers is awaited.

The *Malabar*'s machinery has again been tested and found defective, and she will therefore remain in at Malta.

Generals Elmhorst and William Wilby are dead.

ROME, December 20th.  
Signor Crispien, speaking in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, made a strong appeal to his hearers, and said he hoped that the Government would be in accord with Italy's fortunes were restored. The present crisis, he said, was the gravest that had yet occurred, and the country must make some sacrifices.

LONDON, December 21st.  
In the House of Commons last night, Lord George Hamilton in bringing forward his motion "That the interests of the country demand that larger additions be made to our Navy," and demanding a statement of the intentions of the Government before Christmas, dwelt upon the necessity for a rapid increase, otherwise the Navy, he said, would be weaker than those of France and Russia combined.

Mr. Gladstone then brought forward his amendment: "That the House relies on the Ministry to submit definite proposals in due time." He said that the motion of Lord George Hamilton was really a vote of censure, giving a great Imperial question a party character. Government adhered to the system of annual plans and he denied the existence of the smallest danger; plans were, he said, in course of preparation, for an adequate increase in our Navy.

Mr. Balfour, Mr. Gladstone with degenerating debate to a party movement, and insisted that prompt action was imperative.

The motion of Lord George Hamilton on being put to the vote was rejected by two hundred and forty against two hundred and four, and Mr. Gladstone's amendment was unanimously adopted.

December 21st.  
The House of Commons has rejected the amendment to the Employers' Liability Bill introduced by the House of Lords permitting "contract-out," by a majority of six-to-two.

WASHINGTON, December 21st.  
The Secretary of the Treasury, in his report to Congress, proposed to meet the deficit by selling not below par in coin three per cent short term bonds amounting to two hundred million dollars, or issuing Government obligations payable after one year at interest not exceeding three per cent, these being sold at par, or given in payment of public expenses to creditors willing to receive them.

LONDON, December 22nd.  
The death of General Sir Henry Ramsay is announced.

## BEDLOE'S SNAKE STORY.

A coterie of distinguished cosmopolites, says the *Chicago Times*, were chatting in the café of the Auditorium over their coffee and cigars last night. They were telling stories of travel. Tales of many climes were recited, but none so quaint as this by Dr. Edward Bedloe, World's Fair Commissioner to China and late American consul at Amoy.

"I will tell you the story as it was told to me by the old Chinese boatman," he said. "The intelligence of an animal is simply the intelligence of the human soul that occupies its body. We cannot be too careful in our treatment of animals, because we may inadvertently give pain to the spirit of some ancestor, relative, or friend. I speak with considerable feeling, because I and my family had an experience which we will never forget. My grandfather was a poor coolie, who worked for day wages and saved as much as possible of the 8 cents a day that his labour produced. He was very ambitious, and turned every energy to getting ahead in the world.

"He lived on a cents a day and put by the 6 cents surplus until at the end of the year it amounted to about \$20. He then bought a sampan, or passenger boat, and became a boatman. This was in itself a great step forward and upward in life. He saved his earnings and from time to time bought other sampans and hired men to work them for him. Then, as wealth began to come in, he bought houses and farms. This industry he kept up until his death. When he died he was the leading man in our native village, and had more money than any other two men in the whole district.

"After he died we cremated his body and put his ashes in a large earthenware urn, which we placed on a shelf or bracket in the parlour of our home, where it remained for many, many long years. One day in house-cleaning a servant knocked the jar down and broke it. The ashes were spilled all around the room. As the dust cleared away a small baby snake was found crawling from the debris. We recognized that the snake contained the soul of my grandfather, and therefore took it and put it in a small box. We fed it upon mice, milk, and little birds until it grew very large and fat.

"At the end of eight months it became over six feet long and nearly three inches thick. About this time my second brother was born. He was a very large and handsome baby, and was admitted by the entire community. He suddenly, however, began to grow thin and weak. We were much perturbed over this and greatly alarmed at his condition. My father consulted a clairvoyant, who said that the little brother was in the toils of a vampire, who was sucking his life blood, and advised my father to sit up every night to drive the monster away.

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As he did so my little brother began to cry from hunger and to move towards my mother to be nursed. As he did so the snake curled his

long body round him and put his tail into the poor little baby's mouth. All night long they lay there, my father being afraid to move the serpent exhaling my mother, and my brother vainly endeavoring to get nourishment from the reptile's tail.

"In the morning the family held a council. My wicked grandfather was tried, found guilty, and condemned to death. We executed him with an axe and gave his body to the family pig, and the head now decorates the outer wall of the village temple."

## THE FUTURE OF SILVER.

The world's production of silver, says the *New York Journal of Commerce*, has risen from \$2,000,000 in 1870 to \$100,000,000 in 1893—an increase of over 200 per cent. within twenty-two years. This fundamentally changes the whole problem. The most ardent advocate of bimetalism must admit that this excess of supply immeasurably increases the risks of an attempt to maintain a fixed value for silver. Under these changed conditions, general free coinage would have made enormous compulsory additions to the silver-culivation of the several contracting nations, wholly irrespective of their monetary requirements and with consequent derangements in finance, commerce, and money systems. The magnitude of which it is impossible to estimate. If it were true, as is predicted, that the demonetization of silver is destined to produce dire consequences from a contraction of the volume of metallic money, it is certainly equally true that international free-coinage operating over the last fifteen years would have produced an artificial money, as valuable and as mischievous. To this many veritable arguments, that the current supply of the metal, deducing from it the requirements for the arts and manufactures, dangerously exceeds all legitimate currency-wants, must be added the equally conclusive objection that silver hollon has lost fully 45 per cent. of its former value. The consequence of this decline is a corresponding debasement in all the world's existing silver coin. In view of the fluctuations of bullion for the last twenty years, it is impossible to say that the price may not decline still further, and it is equally impossible to judge what may be the future normal value of the metal. It is simply economic insanity to imagine that a metal thus discarded, thus uncontrolled and uncontrollable as to supply, and thus erratic as to its value, can longer be accepted for any other than subsidiary monetary uses. Bimetalism is not an absolute truth, but a conditional theory.

We may not flatter ourselves that because the silver issue is dead, it is therefore buried. It is still there, still haunting the halls of Congress. Its Teller and Stewart and Bland will harangue conventions and mass meetings on the dangers of the silver issue, and the silver-mining States will make themselves a torment in politics in order to exact new concessions. But, in the meantime, other safer and more convenient forms of money will have been introduced, the great mass of our people will have heard the knell of silver, and will refuse to believe it anything short of dead for ever.

## CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

4th January, 1894.—At 4 p.m.

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